

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 408
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 17, 1977

REF: GENEVA 6998 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DURING AUGUST 17 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP, REPS DISCUSSED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ISSUES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A FALL CCD SESSION, THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, THE UK PROPOSAL FOR A UNGA RESOLUTION ON MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR A CESSATION OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES, AND THE IDEA OF ARMS CONTROL IMPACT STATEMENTS
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AS A POSSIBLE MEASURE TO BE RECOMMENDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNGA'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD). END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE AUGUST 17 MEETING OF THE CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER) REPORTED ON THE US-SOVIET CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

MEETING OF AUGUST 16, THE FIRST IN THE FIFTH ROUND OF CW BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. US REP STATED THAT THE SOVIETS PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS ON THE SCOPE OF A CW BAN, HE NOTED THAT WHILE THE SOVIETS MADE SOME MENTION IN THEIR REMARKS OF RIOT CONTROL AGENTS, THEY APPEARED WILLING TO AVOID PRESSING THE ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATION. IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE ROUND OF TALKS WILL BE, THE US REP SAID, BUT THE GENERAL TONE OF THE FIRST MEETING WAS ENCOURAGING.

3. WITH REGARD TO CCD'S INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON CE, SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 THROUGH 26, US REP SAID THAT US EXPERTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE, SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY IN GENEVA FOR THE US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, US REP INDICATED EXPECTATION THAT US EXPERT PARTICIPATION IN CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS WOULD BE LOW-KEY. UK REP (ASHE) STATED THAT UK EXPERT (BIDDINGTON) WILL PARTICIPATE IN INFORMAL MEETINGS. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID THAT FRG REP MAY COME FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS. OTHER REPS SAID THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS DO NOT PLAN TO SEND EXPERTS.

4. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, AS THE UK HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED, TO CREATE A CW WORKING GROUP IN CCD WITH A RESTRICTED MANDATE, PERHAPS LIMITED TO STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION OR SCOPE OF PROHIBITION. US REP REPLIED THAT SINCE THE CCD'S AGREED SCHEDULE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUMMER SESSION SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS THAT THE CW INFORMAL MEETINGS "MAY INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULING OF THE COMMITTEE'S FURTHER WORK TOWARD THE FORMULATION OF A BAN ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS," THIS IDEA COULD CERTAINLY BE RAISED DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 THROUGH 26. HOWEVER, US REP STATED THAT THE US HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT A JOINT US-SOVIET INITIATIVE ON CW AND HAVE CCD WORKING GROUP ON CW ESTABLISHED THEREAFTER; ON THE TIMING OF THE POSSIBLE JOINT INITIATIVE, THE US REP SAID HE WILL HAVE A MUCH CLEARER IDEA IN A WEEK OR SO. THE US REP ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT WORTHWHILE TO HAVE A SPECIAL FALL SESSION OF THE CCD JUST TO DEAL WITH BITS AND PIECES OF A CW CONVENTION. DEPENDING ON THE TIMING OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE OPENING DATE OF CCD'S SPRING 1978 SESSION, BEGINNING IN JANUARY RATHER THAN IN FEBRUARY.

5. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBURG) MENTIONED THE FORTHCOMING JANUARY 1978 PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), SAYING THAT THIS MIGHT MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CCD TO MEET IN JANUARY. IN THE NETHERLANDS VIEW, SINCE CW IS EXTREMELY

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COMPLICATED, IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO HAVE A FALL CCD
SESSION TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A CW BAN, THEREBY
DISPOSING OF THEM AND SAVING TIME WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE
OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS.

6. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) STATED THAT THE IDEA OF A CCD
WORKING GROUP PROPERLY APPLIES TO OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS,
AND THAT IF A JOINT INITIATIVE IS NOT IN SIGHT BY THE
END OF CCD'S SUMMER SESSION (AUGUST 30), CCD COULD TAKE
A PROVISIONAL DECISION TO MEET AGAIN IN FEBRUARY, SUBJECT
TO THE CALL OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN AFTER CONSULTATION WITH
COMMITTEE MEMBERS. UK REP (ASHE) AGREED, SAYING THAT HE
HAD BELIEVED THAT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A CW BAN COULD HAVE
BEEN DISCUSSED IN A CCD WORKING GROUP THIS SUMMER, BUT THAT

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THE OPPORTUNITY HAD BEEN LOST. OVERALL CW NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE WORTH A SPECIAL FALL SESSION OF THE CCD, THE UK REP STATED, BUT LIMITED TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT.

7. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, UK REP SAID THAT HE PLANNED AN AUGUST 18 STATEMENT, EITHER IN PLENARY OR IN THE INFORMAL MEETING, IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO STEER FUTURE DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK TOWARD SOME GENERAL DOCUMENT RESEMBLING THE 1970 NONALIGNED PAPER (A/8191) RATHER THAN A DETAILED AND RIGID PROGRAM WITH TIMETABLES AND DEADLINES. ITALIAN REP (MORENO) SAID THAT ITALY ALSO PLANS TO SPEAK, GIVING PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE BASIS OF A REVISED VERSION OF ITALY'S 1970 CNP PAPER, WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN NATO AND IN THE EC-9.

8. ON THE PROPOSED UK DRAFT UNGA RESOLUTION DEALING WITH NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), A NUMBER OF REPS COMMENTED ON THE TACTICAL SITUATION TO BE EXPECTED AT THE 32ND UNGA, WHICH WILL PROBABLY NECESSITATE WORKING OUT COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WITH THE SOVIETS. REPS OF US (FISHER), CANADA (SIMARD), NETHERLANDS (MEERBURG), AND ITALY (MORENO) OFFERED MINOR DRAFTING COMMENTS; US RECOMMENDATIONS WERE THOSE OUTLINED PARA 2 REFTEL.

9. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBURG) INQUIRED ABOUT USG REACTION TO JAPANESE AUGUST 11 SUGGESTION FOR A CUT-OFF IN THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES. NOTING THAT THE PROPOSAL REALLY RELATES TO FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS AND SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD TO APPLY TO OTHER MILITARY APPLICATIONS SUCH AS NAVAL REACTORS USED BY BOTH THE US AND THE USSR, US REP (FISHER) STATED USG WILL STUDY ALL THE JAPANESE PROPOSALS VERY CLOSELY. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USG HAD LAST GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE IDEA OF A PRODUCTION CUT-OFF IN EARLY 1969, WHEN HE HIMSELF HAD MADE A STATEMENT ON IT IN THE EIGHTEEN NATION DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE (ENDC), CCD'S PREDECESSOR. THERE HAD NOT BEEN A SOVIET REACTION AT THE TIME, AND THE IDEA SEEMED TO HAVE FADED AWAY. HE EXPRESSED THE THOUGHT THAT THE JAPANESE SUGGESTION MIGHT REACTIVATE INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT.

10. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBURG) SUGGESTED THAT ARMS CONTROL IMPACT STATEMENTS, FOLLOWING THE US PRECEDENT, MIGHT BE A USEFUL MEASURE FOR THE SSOD TO RECOMMEND TO OTHER COUNTRIES. THE RESULTS MIGHT NOT BE GREAT, NETHERLANDS REP SAID, BUT THE INNOVATION OF ARMS CONTROL IMPACT STATEMENTS WOULD ALLOW ARMS CONTROL SPECIALISTS TO PRESENT ANALYTICAL COMMENTS ABOUT PLANNED NEW WEAPONS

SYSTEMS AT THE TIME WHEN DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION
DECISIONS WERE BEING MADE.

11. WESTERN GROUP DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING AT
3:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, AUGUST 22, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE
FORTHCOMING CW INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS AND ANY
OTHER BUSINESS.VANDEN HEUVEL

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